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Allegiances

(Yes, I'm doing it differently in this book ;))

SafariClan

LEADER: Cajunstar- long furred, cream marbled tabby Tom with copper eyes
DEPUTY: Avocetglide- solid black Molly with white chin, nose blaze, paws and tailtip
MEDICINE CATS: Laurelleaf-Golden-striped black she-cat with green eyes
APPRENTICE: Eucalyptuspaw- smoked fawn colour pointed Tom with blue eyes
WARRIORS: Yewface- chocolate colour pointed Tom with Amber eyes

Honeystorm- red marbled tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

Stagstep- lean, wiry lilac Tom with grey eyes and short tail
APPRENTICE: Claypaw

Peonypebble- smoked black Tom with copper eyes and patches of missing fur
APPRENTICE: Hatchpaw

Cowspots- black Tom with white spots and green eyes

Cinnamoncloud- long furred, cinnamon she-cat with yellow eyes

Buckchaser- agile, burly lilac mackerel tabby Tom with green eyes
APPRENTICE: Kalepaw

Willetflutter- small, plump chocolate mackerel tabby and white Tom with copper eyes

Russetmist- red marbled tabby tom with Amber eyes and horizontal scars slashing pelt
APPRENTICE: Irispaw

Chanterellerose- long furred, mackerel caliby she-cat with Amber eyes

Tawnysnake- wiry dilute tortoiseshell she-cat with Amber eyes and long tail

Rowanflower- fawn marbled tabby she-cat with Amber eyes

Ivyblaze- lean, lilac mackerel tabby she-cat with one Amber eye and one green eye

Viperstrike- wiry, muscular chocolate spotted tabby Tom with grey eyes

Skipperstone- grey ticked tabby Tom with green eyes

Palesmoke- dark grey Tom with grey eyes

Volemuzzle- small fawn ticked tabby Tom with small ears and short tail

APPRENTICES: Claypaw- plump grey marbled tabby Tom

Hatchpaw- cinnamon tortoiseshell she-cat with grey eyes

Kalepaw- plump cream ticked tabby she-cat with Amber eyes

Irispaw- scrawny cream ticked tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

QUEENS: Petalstorm- calico with copper eyes (mother to Yewface's kits: Stoatkit, Whitekit, Poppykit and Starlingkit)

Mallardwing- Chocolate/black mackerel tabby (expecting Peonypebble's kits)

Heronflutter-lilac ticked tabby with yellow eyes (no kits)

ELDERS: Dillleaf- fawn and white Tom with dark green eyes

Cranedance- lean, white Tom with black tabby patches; former leader

1

SKIPPERSTONE

I assume you know how my sister was killed, right?

Well, this is my story. And I must warn you, this isn't for the faint of heart.

This story will pierce your emotions, and it has pierced StarClan's heart.

Without further ado, welcome to my tale...

2

THIRTEEN MOONS AGO

I stretch, letting the warm, heat waves seam into my fur.

It's been five moons since Sagepaw's death, and the clan still thinks she murdered Wrenwing and Creamrose.

The clan did think that Sagepaw ran away. I'm the only one who knows the truth.

3

I've been noticing our medicine cat, Laurelleaf, lowering her head when I mention Sagepaw.

They were close when my sister was alive. But these days, she's busy teaching Eucalyptuspaw, her apprentice.

I see them now, letting some moss dry out in the sun for any future patients.

4

I notice Ivyblaze padding towards me from the other side of the clearing.

We've become... Close, recently. When Ivyblaze's father, Smallwhisker, died due to being crushed by a tree branch, I helped her to get over her grief.

She sits down beside me, seeming shaky. I wonder why she's like this?

5

" Is something up?" I ask her. Ivyblaze looks up at me, concerned.

" Kalepaw and Claypaw haven't come back to camp yet," she explained. "They've been gone since dawn. Avocetglide is organizing search patrols, but there's been no luck."

My tail quivers. Claypaw and Kalepaw are nothing but trouble. They go missing all the time, but this is the first time we've had to send out a search patrol to find them.

6

As if they had been chased, Claypaw and Kalepaw raced into camp, each carrying a mouse by the tail.

I noticed they looked rather... fearful. Did they run into danger?

Right away, Avocetglide marches over to them, furious. " Where have you been?!" She scolds them.

7

Kalepaw manages to gasp out, " I smelt loner inside our border!"

Murmurs echoed across the border.

"What?"

" Why would anyone want to enter clan territory? It's a near death sentence!"

I'm somewhat suspicious of the claim the apprentices are making.

8

"Let me sniff your fur," I suggest. "The scent will definitely play a part in tracking down the intruder."

Cats around me nodded. Claypaw winced as I took in a breath. I smelt scents of grass, wood, a slight hint of twoleg...

But there was one scent that scared me. I hadn't smelt her scent in many moons.

9

I back away, astonished, and I ran out of camp. I could hear the cries of Cajunstar and Avocetglide, but it's not like I care.

I keep dashing away, following the scent trail until the scent is strong.

I see a grey she-cat, sitting patiently. By StarClan, I've seen many things in my life, but this...

10

"Why so frightened, Skipperstone?" Sagepaw asks, an unusually deep purr rumbling in her throat.

I crouch down. " Don't you realize that the clan thinks that you're an intruder?"

One of her ears twitches, and she lets out a small grin. " I'm sorry. I wanted to be able to smell forest again." Sagepaw commented, lowering her head.

11

"What is it that you really want?" I ask, my fur fluffing out.

She looks at me with this, sort of smirk, which seems to burn into my gaze.

"Isn't it obvious enough to you?" Sagepaw asks impatiently, her tail twitching.

12

"Well, in case you haven't noticed," I begin, my temper rising with every word.

" SafariClan cats aren't exactly the smartest!" I snap. Sagepaw only looks at me, smiling in a wicked way.

"Well, the same cat who sent you here is the same cat who will betray their clan," she murmurs before fading away.

13

I stood there, baffled. What in the name of StarClan was *that* all about?

Still, I thought about my sister's parting words.

Then it hits me. Is there a traitor in SafariClan?